

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01890 220728Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3522

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UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1890

STATE FOR NEA/ARN

USDOC FOR CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJ: DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

1. REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON PASS FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM AMBASSADOR TO MR. JOHN F. TOLLESON, PRESIDENT; TRIPCO
PETROLEUM, INC; 36 HERTFORD STREET, LONDON W1Y 7TG;
TELEPHONE 01-629-2702:

DEAR MR. TOLLESON:

IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO MEET YOU HERE IN DAMASCUS AND I WISH
TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RECENT AGREEMENT WITH THE
SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. WE CERTAINLY WISH YOU LUCK IN THIS VEN-
TURE AND I AM PLEASED TRIPCO WILL BE THE FIRST AMERICAN COM-
PANY TO COME AND WORK IN SYRIA. YOUR REPRESENTATIVES, MR.
SORENSEN AND MR. BUCHANAN, HAVE BRIEFED US ON PROGRESS TO
DATE AND WE HAVE OFFERED TO HELP IN ANY APPROPRIATE WAY.

GIVEN YOUR IMPORTANT PLANS FOR SYRIA, I WANTED TO BRING
THE FOLLOWING MATTER TO YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION. THE
TWENTY-SECOND DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR WILL BE HELD
JULY 25 TO AUGUST 20, 1975. THE FAIR AUTHORITY IS MOST
EAGER TO HAVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION AFTER OUR VERY SUCCESS-
FUL EXHIBITION LAST YEAR AND IS CONSTRUCTING A NEW US
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PAVILION AT AN EXCELLENT LOCATION ON THE FAIRGROUNDS. THE

DEPARTMZNT OF COMMERCE HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT A COMMERCIAL PRESENCE FAIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FAIR AND HAS ALREADY SENT OUT ITS EXHIBITION DIRECTOR.

OUR PARTICIPATION WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF FIRMS SUCH AS YOUR. AS YOU KNOW, AND AS PRESIDENT ASAD TOLD 33 CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF LEADING AMERICAN CORPORATIONS ON JANUARY 21, AMERICAN FIRMS WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED TO SYRIA AND THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH U.S. COMPANIES.

TRIPCO'S AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA IS A LANDMARK IN OUR NEWLY RE-ESTABLISHED RELATIONS AND I KNOW THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN A TRIPCO PRESENTATION AT THE DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR. THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY, AFTER YOUR RECEPTION IN JUNE, TO REACH A VERY LARGE SYRIAN AUDIENCE AND A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF VISITORS FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND SHOW THEM WHAT AN AMERICAN PETROLEUM COMPANY CAN DO, AND WILL DO, FOR SYRIA. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BRING YOUR OFFSHORE DRILLING VESSEL UP THE BARADA RIVER IN FRONT OF THE FAIRGROUNDS, I SINCERELY HOPE TRIPCO WILL DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAIR. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S CAGNE OFFICE, TEL 202/967-5341.

SINCERELY,
/Y/ RICHARD W. MURPHY
AMBASSADOR

MURPHY

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